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AFGHANISTAN. 4 Dec.—United States. Mr Nixon, Vice-President of the United States, arrived in Kabul in the course of his tour of Far and Middle Eastern countries.

ARGENTINA. 12 Dec.—Agreement with Ecuador (*see Ecuador*).

16 Dec.—Antarctica. The *Official Gazette* published a decree appointing an 'Antarctic scientific commission' to visit the 'Argentine-Antarctic sector' (Falkland Islands Dependencies) and make a scientific investigation of the natural resources. The commission would sail as part of an Antarctic naval force.

AUSTRALIA. 4 Dec.—Oil. It was disclosed that oil had been discovered at Learmonth in Western Australia.

AUSTRIA. 9 Dec.—Economic Situation. A report on the Austrian banking system, compiled by Belgian, British, and U.S. experts at the Federal Government's request, stated that the industrial production index had risen to 172 against 100 in 1937, that foreign trade had gained a sound balance, and that foreign reserves, compared with current liabilities, approached the highest current level anywhere in Europe.

BENELUX CONFERENCE. 9 Dec.—It was announced after a meeting of Benelux Ministers in Luxembourg that the Ministers had drawn up proposals for a joint trade policy to be submitted to the three Parliaments for ratification.

BERMUDA THREE-POWER CONFERENCE. 4 Dec.—A conference of the heads of Government and Foreign Ministers of Great Britain, France, and the United States opened in Bermuda. The representatives attending were: Great Britain—Sir Winston Churchill and Mr Eden; France—M. Laniel and M. Bidault; United States—President Eisenhower and Mr Dulles. Gen. Ismay attended as an observer in his capacity as Secretary-General of N.A.T.O.

8 Dec.—A communiqué was issued following the conclusion of the three-Power talks which were held from 4 to 7 December. It stated that the meetings had confirmed the unity of purpose of the three countries, and various measures had been agreed for the solution of current problems. The three Powers would remain resolute in maintaining their solidarity and vigilant against efforts to divide them. They were confident that the free peoples could provide both for their security and their well-being and they dedicated themselves to work towards those ends. The North Atlantic Treaty remained the foundation of their common policy. They declared their support for the continuing development of a united Europe, including Germany, and reaffirmed the necessity for the European Defence Community, declaring that it would 'ensure intimate and durable co-operation between the United Kingdom and United States forces and the forces of the E.D.C.' The French Foreign Minister had explained French problems in regard to the E.D.C. The existing division of Europe could not be accepted as either justified or permanent, and it was hoped that in due course, by peaceful

means, the countries of eastern Europe would again be enabled to play their part as free nations.

The three Governments would lose no opportunity of easing international tension and of reassuring all nations that the western strength would not be invoked 'in any cause of wrongful violence'. On the contrary, the fundamental principle of the United Nations was that guarantees against aggression should be universal in their application. In this spirit they had approved the text of a reply to the latest Soviet Note and they hoped that at the meeting of four Foreign Ministers, which should result, progress would be made towards the reunification of Germany in freedom, the conclusion of an Austrian state treaty, and the solution of other major problems. The immediate object of the three Powers' policy in the Far East continued to be the convening of a political conference on Korea. The war in Indo-China was recognized as of vital importance to the defence of the free world, and the three Powers were resolved to work together to restore peace and stability in the area.

BURMA. 4 Dec. et seq.—U.N. debate on Chinese Nationalist forces in Burma (*see United Nations, General Assembly, Political Committee*).

CANADA. 3 Dec.—U.S. Note *re* Mr Gouzenko (*see United States*).

10 Dec.—**Mr Gouzenko.** The Minister of Justice informed the House of Commons that Mr Gouzenko had agreed to meet the chairman and counsel of the U.S. Senate's internal security sub-committee. The meeting would be held subject to the Canadian conditions.

14 Dec.—**Exports to United States.** Mr Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce, announced in the House of Commons that the Government had agreed to a U.S. request to limit the shipment of oats to the United States to 23 m. bushels during the period 10 December 1953 to 10 September 1954. Mr Howe said the Government was not happy about having to take measures contrary to the principles on which U.S.-Canadian trade had developed, and it had only agreed to the limitation as the lesser of two evils.

CEYLON. 12 Dec.—**China.** Sir John Kotalawala, Prime Minister, declared in a public speech that he had declined to receive either a good will or trade mission from Communist China as Ceylon did not want to have friendship or any dealing with China other than the trade agreement.

CHINA. 7 Dec.—**Korea.** Peking Radio announced that the Prime Minister, Chou En-Lai, had sent a message to the U.N. General Assembly declaring that the situation in Korea had reached a critical situation and that the armistice agreement had been seriously violated as explanations to unrepatriated prisoners by the Chinese and North Koreans had been carried out only for seven days and twenty days had elapsed since they were halted for the fifth time. He had also alleged that the convening of a political conference had been delayed by 'treacherous designs'. In addition he had claimed that letters sent by U.N. military

China (continued)

H.Q. to South Korean and Nationalist Chinese special agents in prisoner of war camps had been intercepted and that they provided proof of delaying tactics. The agents had been ordered to disrupt explanations and to prevent prisoners from requesting repatriation. The Prime Minister asked that the neutral Repatriation Commission should resolutely establish its control over the camps and break up the special agents' organizations. Otherwise, he said, it would be impossible to proceed with the explanations. Appended to the letter were two annexes consisting of the text of the Chinese and North Korean proposals submitted at Panmunjom on 30 November, and the text of the alleged secret orders sent to agents in prisoners' camps.

The New China news agency circulated a 'preliminary' report that 17,000 Korean and Chinese prisoners had been killed by U.S. forces from January to October.

8 Dec.—National Bonds. It was announced that the Government Administration Council had decided to issue a new series of national bonds in the New Year.

11 Dec.—Note to Pakistan *re* U.S. bases (*see Pakistan*).

16 Dec.—Note to neutral nations *re* prisoners (*see Korea*).

COUNCIL OF EUROPE. 11 Dec.—Committee of Ministers. At a meeting of the Committee in Paris, the Ministers signed five conventions, two of which provided for the equal treatment of citizens of all member States, when resident in the territories of other member States, in matters of social security. Under the third convention the same principle was applied to the social and medical assistance of needy persons. All three conventions were also extended to refugees by a protocol. The fourth convention provided for the mutual recognition by member countries of qualifying diplomas for university entrance; and the fifth enumerated the formal conditions which might be imposed in the registration of patents.

12 Dec.—The Saar. The Ministers adopted a resolution in which they welcomed the reopening of negotiations between France and Germany on the Saar and expressed the hope that they would result in a solution acceptable to all parties. (The Consultative Assembly had submitted a plan, based on a report by a Dutch deputy, Mr Van der Goes van Naters, which favoured Europeanization but replaced the Franco-Saar economic union by a fifty-year contract providing for a common market and the retention of the French franc.)

The Ministers also approved the general lines of a foreign policy resolution submitted by the Assembly which called for a four-Power conference to settle the German and Austrian questions; the maintenance of existing defence efforts and German rearmament; and a close association of Britain and the other Council of Europe countries with the European Defence Community.

The Ministers appointed M. Pierre Schneider, a former French Minister of Health, to the post of Special Commissioner for refugees and excess population in Europe.

CUBA. 4 Dec.—Arrest of ex-President Socarras (*see United States*).

6 Dec.—President Batista said Dr Prio Socarras did not intend to conduct a real revolution in Cuba. His aim was rather to provide weapons for public disorders which would harm Cuba's tourist trade and damage the nation's economy. The President said he had known for some time of the activities of Dr Prio and his associates.

DANUBE COMMISSION. 15 Dec.—At a meeting of the Commission in Galatz, Rumania, Russian and Soviet satellite delegates joined in electing their Yugoslav colleague to the post of secretary. (The secretary to the Commission had been a Russian since 1948.) This move followed other concessions made during the week by the Russian-led majority to Yugoslav objections about regulations under the Danube Convention of 1948. The Commission also adopted a Yugoslav proposal to move the headquarters and secretariat from Galatz to Budapest.

ECUADOR. 12 Dec.—**Argentina.** The Foreign Ministers of Ecuador and Argentina signed in Quito an agreement providing for the adhesion of Ecuador to the treaty of economic union between Argentina and Chile in which Paraguay had also joined. There were no binding clauses in the treaty which consisted of a declaration of broad principles. Simultaneously agreements were concluded whereby Argentina undertook to buy 30,000 tons of petroleum from Ecuador for wheat, and to invest capital in the Ecuadorean port of Guayaquil.

EGYPT. 3 Dec.—**Canal Zone.** The British military authorities wired off an Egyptian trading village near Fayid because of increased lawlessness in the village.

The British Minister had two interviews with the Foreign Minister about incidents in the Canal Zone.

Sudan. In an address to Cairo University students Gen. Nagib said British imperialism would resist by every means the unification of the Nile Valley, and he urged Egyptians and Sudanese youth to 'march shoulder to shoulder on the road to liberation and independence'.

4 Dec.—**United States.** The U.S. Naval Attaché said that representations had been made to the Egyptian Government following the receipt of a signal reporting that an Egyptian battery had fired on the American freighter, *Albion*, at the entrance to the Gulf of Aqaba. The Foreign Ministry had given an assurance that action would be taken to expedite the passage of the ship and that the matter would then be investigated.

6 Dec.—**Canal Zone.** The Governor of Sharkia province reported to the Ministry of the Interior that British troops in armoured cars had surrounded and fired on the Canal Zone town of El Qurein and that the Egyptian police and gendarmerie were called out to defend the population. He added that the British troops were withdrawn several hours later and no casualties were reported. He also reported that one Egyptian was killed in an incident with British forces on 5 December in the same area.

Egypt (*continued*)

The Minister of the Interior said he had sent the Foreign Ministry a long list of 'acts of aggression' by British forces for action at diplomatic level.

7 Dec.—The British Embassy received a Note from the Government replying to written and verbal protests against increasing lawlessness in the Canal Zone.

Major Salem, Propaganda Minister, commenting on the situation in the Canal Zone, said many of the thefts were committed by British soldiers and he complained that the British authorities obstructed the Egyptian police by refusing them permission to interrogate victims and to inspect the scenes of crimes. Nevertheless, he said, the Government was doing all in its power to maintain good order in the Canal Zone.

8 Dec.—A British Embassy spokesman denied the Egyptian allegation concerning El Qurein.

10 Dec.—It was learned that a Note had been sent to the British Embassy protesting against the alleged attack on El Qurein.

FRANCE. 4 Dec.—**Bermuda Three-Power Conference** *q.v.*

11 Dec.—**Bermuda.** M. Laniel, Prime Minister, on arrival back from Bermuda, referred to French press reports of Anglo-French differences and said that it would be absurd to say that Franco-British friendship was passing through a period of crisis and one could see only too well whom such an absurdity would benefit. He added that the unity between France and her two allies was complete on the large objectives of world policy and that the Bermuda conference, where France's problems had been expounded in all independence and in accordance with the wishes of Parliament, had been far from useless for France.

Germany. Dr Adenauer, German Federal Chancellor, speaking at a luncheon in Paris said that the only way western European countries could prevent themselves from being 'swallowed up in the Russian vortex' was by European integration. Consequently west European States must choose either to join in an integrated Europe, thereby saving their freedom, or to remain in isolation and become Russian satellites. The choice lay between surrendering some rights to the integrated community or losing all rights as a satellite. Affirming that the main object of the E.D.C. was to make war between European States, especially France and Germany, impossible for all time, he said: 'Speaking as German Federal Chancellor I solemnly and formally declare: it is the most ardent desire of us all to create a lasting partnership between Germany and France, to render for ever impossible a war between these two countries, which are and will continue to be neighbours.' He pointed out that the neutralization of Germany was not the same thing as German neutrality, and said it could only be based on compulsion and therefore bore in it 'the germ of transience'. He did not think Great Britain and the United States would be likely to keep forces in Germany permanently in order to maintain neutralization, and if they withdrew Germany would become a Russian satellite 'within the shortest time by means of subversion, bribery, and coercion'.

Neutralization would therefore mean the victory of Communism and Soviet Russia over western Europe. In replying to questions, he said he saw no connection between the Saar problem and E.D.C.; the latter was an aspect of European integration and the former concerned relations between France and Germany.

11 Dec.—Meeting of Committee of Ministers (*see Council of Europe*).

12 Dec.—**The Saar.** M. Bidault and Dr Adenauer again discussed the Saar.

14 Dec.—Meeting of North Atlantic Council (*see North Atlantic Treaty Organization*).

16 Dec.—**E.D.C.** The Foreign Affairs committee of the National Assembly passed by 28 votes to 13 a resolution which said that no intervention from whatever quarter, even from the best friends of France, could be allowed to influence the decisions which it would propose to the National Assembly. The minority consisted of M.R.P. members, two right-wing members, and one Socialist.

GERMANY. 3 Dec.—**Berlin.** Dr Schreiber, chief burgomaster of west Berlin, in a policy statement before the House of Representatives, demanded a revision of the 1949 Statement of Principles (the occupation statute) so that in future important political decisions should not be taken without prior consultation and approval of the Berlin authorities. He also asked that west Berlin should be fully represented and given voting powers in the Bonn Parliament, and he emphasized the need to strengthen the economic position of the city with the help of the Federal Government and the United States.

West Germany. Hamburg Senate. Following a vote of no confidence in the Social Democratic administration in the Hamburg *Land*, a new Coalition Government (Senate) was formed composed of the four bourgeois parties.

4 Dec.—**West Germany. Land Election.** The final results of the Baden-Württemberg *Land* elections showed that the Christian Democrats polled 26 per cent of the votes, the Social Democrats 24 per cent, and non-party candidates 27 per cent.

Arrest of Communists. The *Land* Government of North Rhine-Westphalia announced the arrest of eleven officials of the Communist 'National Front' on suspicion of unconstitutional activities. The homes of eighty-seven others had been searched.

6 Dec.—**Berlin.** It was learned that Mr Dengin, representative of the Soviet High Commission in Berlin, had rejected a suggestion made by the three western commandants that telephone communications between east and west Berlin should be restored.

7 Dec.—**West Germany. Western Note to Russia.** Dr Adenauer approved without reservation the western reply to the Russian Note of 26 November, drafted at Bermuda, which had been shown him by the French High Commissioner.

East Germany. Appeal to France. The Praesidium of the east German *Volkskammer* appealed in a letter to the President and deputies of the French National Assembly for a union of 'French effort and peace-

Germany (continued)

loving German forces' to defeat the threatened rearmament of western Germany.

West Germany. Cartels. Herr Fritz Berg, president of the Federation of German Industries, declared himself in favour of the retention of trusts and cartels, claiming that the modern economic system required stability and price-fixing.

10 Dec.—West Germany: Four-Power Conference. The *Bundestag* approved unanimously a declaration which said that the *Bundestag* looked to the Government to take steps during the forthcoming four-Power conference to ensure the restoration of German unity by peaceful means and to guarantee to the whole German people, reunited in a State founded on the rule of law, the human rights laid down in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Statute of the Council of Europe. The *Bundestag* also declared that its special concern would be directed to ending the bondage of the Germans of the Soviet Zone and of Berlin and to securing the freeing of political prisoners in the Soviet Zone.

Hitler Film. The ban on the film *Till Five Minutes Past Twelve* was lifted by all the *Länder*, except the Rhineland Palatinate, but Bavaria imposed the provision that the film would be banned again if it should lead to disturbance of law and order.

East Germany. Labour Concessions. Herr Ulbricht, Vice-Premier, announced to a special Cabinet meeting, the proceedings of which were broadcast, new concessions for workers as part of the 'new order'. They included a reduction in working hours for men employed in certain especially arduous professions; wage increases for workers in certain categories who had not received them in 1952; cheap railway fares for holiday travel for all trade union members; provision of extra buses to take workers to their work; and improvements in canteen meals. The attention of Ministers was also directed to a proposal for wage increases for workers in private industry but the amounts were not specified.

11 Dec.—Dr Adenauer on European integration (see France).

14 Dec.—West Germany. Four-Power Conference. On his return from talks with the three allied Foreign Ministers in Paris, Dr Adenauer said that at the forthcoming Berlin conference 'the three western Powers will come to no decisions either without us or against us'. His Government had deliberately not suggested that a German observer should be present as, if the western Powers proposed such a step, the Kremlin would want an observer from the Soviet zone regime to attend. 'We are not going to risk a possible recognition of that regime' the Chancellor said, 'and we do not wish to have it put on an equal footing with the Government of the Federal Republic.'

15 Dec.—East German Premier in Moscow (see U.S.S.R.).

16 Dec.—East Germany. Four-Power Conference. Herr Ulbricht, acting Chief Minister, made a statement to the *Volkskammer* in which he proposed that representatives of east and west Germany should take part in the discussions on Germany at the forthcoming four-

Power conference. He said that his Government would do everything in its power to ensure that the meeting took place in an atmosphere of 'peace and democratic freedom', but he hoped that such agreements as were reached would provide safeguards against a restoration of German fascism and militarism and would call a halt to the Bonn and Paris treaties. He also stated that the east German Government was still ready to discuss with west German representatives the formation of an all-German provisional Government and the preparation of free elections throughout the country. He denied that his proposals implied the neutralization of Germany. He said Dr Adenauer had not only refused all offers to negotiate with east German representation but had put all kinds of obstacles in the way of the forthcoming conference and had decided to break certain provisions of the Basic Law to allow for the remilitarization of western Germany while the conference was in progress. These facts showed where the 'enemies of peace' might be found.

West Germany. War Criminals. The Allied Occupation Authorities released 105 Germans, including five convicted of war crimes, under a Christmas amnesty.

GOLD COAST. 8 Dec.—Conference of West African Nationalists.

A conference in Kumasi of West African nationalists ended after adopting a resolution declaring its political objective to be the establishment of a strong West African Federal State, which should be governed by a parliamentary democracy, should respect the traditions of its various communities, and should identify itself with the Commonwealth of Nations.

11 Dec.—Allegations of Bribery. A commission appointed by the Governor began inquiries into the circumstances of the recent resignation of Mr Braimah, Minister of Communication and Works, who said that he had resigned in order that rumours of bribery and corruption concerning Ministers and others, including himself, might be fully investigated.

GREAT BRITAIN. Uganda. Corrigendum. In the sixteenth line of the report of Mr Lyttelton's speech of 2 December on the deposition of the Kabaka of Buganda (*see p. 765*) the following was omitted after the words 'had remained': 'apart from a request that responsibility for Buganda affairs should be transferred to the Foreign Office—an arrangement which Mr Lyttelton had explained would be quite inappropriate'.

3 Dec.—U.S. allocation for purchase of surplus farm products (*see United States*).

4 Dec.—Bermuda Three-Power Conference *q.v.*

5 Dec.—Uganda. The Colonial Office announced that security precautions in Buganda had been relaxed.

The deposed Kabaka of Buganda sent a cable from London to the Katikiro (Chief Minister of Buganda) expressing the hope that the Buganda people would remain calm and respect authority and that the three proposed Regents would be sworn in at once to ensure tranquillity.

7 Dec.—British Guiana. The House of Commons rejected by 304

Great Britain (*continued*)

votes to 271 an Opposition prayer to annul the draft order suspending the Constitution of British Guiana. In defending the Government's action, Mr Lyttelton, Colonial Secretary, maintained that the suspension of the Constitution was the only course open to the Government and that every other course that had been suggested was either impracticable or impolitic.

Uganda. Mr Lyttelton saw the Kabaka of Buganda.

Persia. The Foreign Office announced the appointment of Mr D. A. H. Wright as Chargé d'Affaires in Tehran.

8 Dec.—Northern Rhodesia. Mr Lyttelton, Colonial Secretary, announced in the Commons that at the request of elected members of the Legislative Council he had agreed to advance the date of his visit to Northern Rhodesia and he proposed to go there early in January to discuss the constitutional position with unofficial members of the Legislative Council. He would also meet members of the African Representative Council. He had explained, however, that whatever the outcome of the discussions there would be no variation in the constitutional changes announced on 23 September. He had also confirmed that the reference to the franchise in that announcement related to future political development and that no changes in the franchise were contemplated during the life of the next Legislative Council (normally of five years) unless all parties were agreed on such changes during that period and the Government were ready to accept them. In these circumstances the elected members had decided to withdraw their resignations from Government boards and committees, and Mr Beckett and Lt.-Col. Wilson had withdrawn their resignations from the Executive Council.

9 Dec.—Kenya: Financial Aid. Mr Lyttelton, Colonial Secretary, announced in the Commons the Government's decision to make £6 m. available to the Kenya Government as a contribution to the emergency—£4 m. as a grant and £2 m. as an interest-free loan. In addition it had decided to make a further grant of £5 m. for the financing of a five-year plan for African agricultural development and rehabilitation. All but half a million of this £5 m. would be found from Colonial Development and Welfare funds. Parliamentary sanction would be sought for the remaining half million and for the £6 m. grant.

10 Dec.—Kenya. Mr Head, Secretary of State for War, announced in the Commons that a court of inquiry would be held to investigate allegations made at the trial by court martial of Captain Griffiths in regard to the fostering of a competitive spirit among units in regard to Mau-Mau 'kills' by such means as rewards to soldiers and the keeping of scoreboards.

14 Dec.—Meeting of North Atlantic Council (*see North Atlantic Treaty Organization*).

Uganda. Mr Lyttelton, Colonial Secretary, received a deputation from the Lukiko of Buganda.

15 Dec.—Uganda. An official delegation of the Buganda Lukiko issued a statement in which they said that the purpose of their mission

was to urge the withdrawal of the deposition and banishment orders against the Kabaka. They also said: (1) that they were satisfied with the Colonial Secretary's last statement on the question of East African federation; (2) that they regarded Mr Lyttelton's assurance that it was H.M. Government's policy to develop Uganda as an African State as offering a satisfactory basis in regard to the nomination of members to the Legislative Council; (3) that, in passing a resolution asking for the independence of Buganda, it was not the Lukiko's intention to suggest the dismemberment of Uganda, and that the Lukiko was not against the essential unity of the Uganda Protectorate; (4) that the Lukiko, however, favoured a federal system of government; (5) that in the recent negotiations between the Governor of Uganda and the Kabaka, the latter had acted as constitutional head of the Buganda State and as representative of the Minister and the Lukiko and had discharged his duties with entire satisfaction to his people and in accordance with the best democratic traditions.

Colombo Plan. The Stationery Office published the second annual report of the Consultative Committee on Economic Development in South and South-east Asia (Cmd. 9016, price 3s. 6d.). The countries concerned were: Burma, Cambodia, Ceylon, India, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan, Malaya, British Borneo, Viet-Nam, and Indonesia. The countries giving assistance were: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom, and the United States.

16 Dec.—Uganda. The Government published a White Paper (Cmd. 9028, price 1s. 6d.) explaining the events leading to the withdrawal of recognition of the Kabaka of Buganda.

Colonial Affairs. A Labour motion expressing grave disquiet at the Government's handling of affairs in Africa was rejected by a majority of 28. In a speech defending his policy Mr Lyttelton deplored the breakdown of a national approach to colonial affairs, which he considered more than ever unjustifiable in regard to Central African Federation. In speaking of Kenya he emphasized that the first duty of a Government was to maintain law and order.

GREECE. 6 Dec.—Italian-Greek economic agreement (*see Italy*).

14 Dec.—King Paul and Queen Frederika returned from their two months' State visit to the United States. King Paul held a Press conference at which he appealed for help from the press in keeping constantly before the people the mission to work for greater unity within and beyond Greece's frontiers.

HUNGARY. 12 Dec.—Budapest Radio reported that six persons had been sentenced to prison terms of up to fourteen years for conspiring to overthrow the Government.

INDIA. 8 Dec.—Sinkiang. Mr Nehru, Prime Minister, told Parliament that the closure of the Indian Consulate-General in Kashgar was final as the Chinese had declared Sinkiang a 'closed territory'. (Recent disorders in Sinkiang had resulted in the arrival of large numbers of

India (*continued*)

refugees in Kashmir and the total stoppage of trade between India and Sinkiang.)

11 Dec.—Pakistan. In a speech at Dehra Dun, Mr Nehru said that if the strength of the Pakistan army were increased with U.S. aid it would have repercussions not only in India but throughout south-east Asia and would disturb the entire balance of power in the region.

Nepal. The first motor road from Delhi to Katmandu, the Nepalese capital, was opened.

INDO-CHINA. 4 Dec.—Franco-Laotian troops captured the fortress of Muong Khoua, on the road between China and Luang Prabang, after twenty-four hours' bitter fighting.

Cambodia. The all-party Government agreed that general elections for a National Assembly should be held 'eventually', but that the present moment was not suitable. The Democratic Party (previously implacably opposed to the king) issued a declaration expressing its esteem for King Norodom and paying homage to his skill, courage, and patriotism.

Viet-Nam. The Viet-Minh 42nd Regiment attacked in force the post of Gialoc protecting the crossing of the Song Thai Binh river midway along the strategic highway joining Hanoi to the port of Haiphong. The French Union defenders were relieved by an armed column from Haiduong supported by fighter aircraft but it was reported that only a few of the garrison had survived. Gen. Agostini, the French Commander of Haiduong, claimed that the Viet-Minh had lost four to five hundred dead and wounded.

6 Dec.—Viet-Minh Proposals. M. Nguyen Van Tam, the Viet-Nameese Prime Minister, who arrived back in Saigon after attending the meeting of the High Council of the French Union in Paris, said it would be a grave error to reject out of hand the proposals reported to have been made by Ho Chi-minh if their authenticity could be established. However, 'blind confidence' could not be placed in Viet-Minh who must offer 'the most serious guarantees' that the negotiation period would not be used by them to reinforce their war potential and to stage a repetition of the 1946 *coup*.

Cambodia. Mr Hak Mong Seng, the Foreign Minister, resigned after admitting that he had exceeded his instructions when he announced Cambodian withdrawal from the quadripartite Customs union of France and the Associated States at the recent High Council meeting in Paris. The action had been disavowed by the Cambodian Government.

Viet-Nam. Heavy fighting was reported from the area of Dien Bien Phu where Franco-Viet-Nameese parachute troops were ambushed on the mountain road linking Dien Bien Phu with the highway from Hanoi to the Thai resistance centre of Laichau. The 316th Viet-Minh division was reported to be two days march from both Dien Bien Phu and Laichau. Increased activity was also reported of Viet-Minh forces—estimated at 60,000 men—within the French defensive perimeter in the Red River delta.

8 Dec.—Evacuation of Laichau. The French High Command announced that the civilian population were being evacuated from Laichau, the Thai capital, 'as a measure of precaution'.

M. Dejean, the French Commissioner-General, who had returned to Saigon from Paris, referring to the Ho Chi-minh offer, said that the French Government hoped that the maintenance of the expeditionary corps and the rapid development of the national armies of the Associated States, combined with the full realization of independence, would lead to a solution of the conflict. But the French Government did not reject *a priori* another solution if one were offered. It would, however, have to be accompanied by all the indispensable guarantees, and the peace to which it led would have to be one of independence and assured freedom.

9 Dec.—Franco-Laotian forces captured Muong Noi, about seventy miles north-east of Luang Prabang.

10 Dec.—French reinforcements were sent by air to strengthen Dien Bien Phu. Air-strikes were at the same time made against Tuan Giao, an important centre of the Viet-Minh 316th Division.

Viet-Minh Peace Offer. The Viet-Minh wireless made a declaration affirming the willingness of the Viet-Minh people and Government to negotiate with France to terminate the war if the French Government was sincere and respected the Viet-Minh's genuine independence. The declaration denied both that the Viet-Minh desire for peace was the result of military difficulties and also French claims that it was France and Viet-Nam who wanted peace and that Viet-Minh did not.

11 Dec.—The French High Command announced the total evacuation of Laichau.

12 Dec.—Viet-Minh forces occupied Laichau.

Viet-Minh units from the central Viet-Nam border region were reported to have attacked French forces holding the Paksan region in southern Laos.

14 Dec.—Mr Nguyen Van Tam, the Viet-Nam Prime Minister, stated on returning to Saigon from talks with Emperor Bao Dai that the position on both sides remained the same. A colleague of the Prime Minister said later that Mr Nguyen Van Tam had announced his intention of demanding from the Emperor: (1) the formation of a broadly based Government to include the extreme nationalist parties of northern Viet-Nam; (2) general elections for a National Assembly; (3) soundings towards peace negotiations with Viet-Minh.

Viet-Minh. Ho Chi-Minh, the Viet-Minh leader, again declared in a broadcast his readiness to parley with the French.

IRAQ. 15 Dec.—Martial law was proclaimed in the Basra area following a week-end of disturbances arising out of a strike of oil workers of the Basra Petroleum Company. Eight police and six strikers (one of whom died later) were injured in the disorders.

16 Dec.—The Minister of the Interior said Communist elements were behind the strike and were preventing workers from returning to work. One American employee of the company had been stabbed and

Iraq (continued)

seriously wounded and cars had been destroyed. Eighteen persons had been arrested including a number of Persians.

The Cabinet considered the situation and decided to suspend nine newspapers for a year.

ISRAEL. 3 Dec. et seq. U.N. debate on Jordan waters dispute (*see United Nations, Security Council*).

Israeli-Soviet trade agreement (*see U.S.S.R.*).

7 Dec.—Resignation of Mr Ben Gurion. Mr Ben Gurion, Prime Minister, submitted his resignation to the President. He had decided to retire from public life. The Government remained in office in a caretaker capacity with Mr Sharrett, the Foreign Minister, as acting Prime Minister, pending the formation of a new Government.

9 Dec.—Mr Sharett was asked by the President to form a new Government and said he would seek a coalition of all parties except the extreme right-wing Cherut Party and the Communists.

11 Dec.—Great Britain. Mr Sharett told the press that relations with Britain had been somewhat strained as a result of the British delegate's attitude at the Security Council debate on frontier tension. He also referred to the possibility of a British withdrawal from the Suez Canal zone and said that the Government had expressed its concern to Britain that such a withdrawal might seriously affect the military balance between Israel and Egypt. He thought that 'guaranteed and counter-vailing measures' could help to rectify any such unbalance.

ITALY. 5 Dec.—Trieste. At a meeting between Signor Pella, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, and Mr Gregoric, the Yugoslav Minister, it was agreed that Italy and Yugoslavia should immediately and simultaneously withdraw their troops from along the common frontier and restore the position to normal as rapidly as possible.

6 Dec.—Italian-Greek Agreement. At the conclusion of a four-day visit paid by Mr Markezinis, Greek Minister of Economic Co-ordination, an economic agreement was signed which provided for the granting of credits to Greece by Italian firms up to a maximum of \$15 m. particularly in the form of industrial supplies. The amount would be increased to \$25 m. if Italian industry were to take part in the construction of hydro-electric plants planned in Greece.

7 Dec.—Trieste. The order was given for the withdrawal of troops from the Yugoslav frontier.

11 Dec.—Strike. Government employees, including railway and postal workers came out on a twenty-four-hour national strike in support of claims for higher pay and other concessions. Most trains were brought to a standstill, and elementary and some secondary schools remained closed, but the Ministries were comparatively unaffected.

12 Dec.—Amnesty Bill. The Christian Democrats and the Monarchists voted together and secured the rejection of the main clause of the Amnesty Bill which, under Communist and neo-Fascist pressure,

had extended the amnesty to include crimes, especially of a political character, not originally contemplated. With only the neo-Fascists opposing, the Chamber approved the remaining clauses, after modifications had been introduced to include certain political crimes. As approved the Bill provided for remission of sentences below twenty years, reduction of sentences over twenty years to two years, and commutation of penal servitude for life to ten years' imprisonment.

15 Dec.—A call by the Communist, Catholic, and neo-Fascist labour organizations for a twenty-four-hour national industrial strike in support of wage claims was disobeyed by about 6 m. workers. The trade unions concerned claimed that 90 per cent of the workers obeyed the call, but impartial sources said the figure was nearer one-third.

JORDAN. 6 Dec.—**U.S. Gift of Wheat.** At a reception on board a United States ship at Aqaba, the U.S. Ambassador presented to Jordan a gift of 10,000 tons of wheat.

13 Dec.—Jordan-Syrian discussions (*see Syria*).

KENYA. 3 Dec.—The Legislature rejected by 37 votes to 14 a motion introduced by a European elected member requesting the Government to appoint a commission of inquiry to fix the responsibility, if any, for the alleged failure of the Government to appreciate the potential seriousness of the Mau-Mau movement in its early stages. All the European elected members supported the motion; the Asian and African unofficial members opposed it. The Chief Secretary said the time was not opportune for such an inquiry, and the Member for Agriculture said a historical record or inquiry would be undertaken at an appropriate time.

Leaders of Christian Churches and organizations issued a statement recording their abhorrence at evidence given before a civil court and a recent court martial and expressing grave concern at abuses of power by certain members of the forces of law and order.

4 Dec.—**Kenya Indian Congress.** The Kenya Indian Congress issued a statement of policy which gave as the three main principles of ultimate policy: (1) self-government within the Commonwealth and a Government of Ministers responsible to a popularly elected Legislature; (2) a common roll based on adult suffrage without the reservation of seats in the Legislature for any race; (3) no discrimination on grounds of race, religion, or colour. In regard to immediate policy Congress appealed to the various racial groups to frame together a programme of progress by mutual consultation. The policy statement was followed up by a resolution declaring that no political or constitutional arrangement to which the Indian community was made a party, and no acceptance of portfolios by any Indian members, should be binding on the community unless accepted beforehand by the Congress standing committee.

9 Dec.—Mr Lyttelton on financial assistance (*see Great Britain*).

10 Dec.—Appointment of court of inquiry to investigate allegations concerning fostering of competitive spirit among army units in regard to anti-Mau-Mau activity (*see Great Britain*).

11 Dec.—**Land Forfeiture.** The Legislature approved legislation

Kenya (continued)

authorizing the forfeiture of land belonging to Mau-Mau organizers and gang leaders. The measure was subject to the approval of the U.K. Government. Several Asian and African unofficial members opposed the proposals.

14 Dec.—Emergency Figures. It was announced that in the week ending 12 December sixty-four terrorists were killed and fifty-two captured. Security forces' casualties were one African killed and six wounded; civilian casualties were one Asian and ten Africans killed and one Asian and seven Africans wounded.

KOREA. 3 Dec.—Prisoners. Another thirty pro-Communist South Korean prisoners were interviewed by South Korean explainers, but all declined to be repatriated.

4 Dec.—Thirty more South Korean pro-Communist prisoners refused repatriation after interviews.

Political Conference. Mr Ki Sok-bok, the North Korean delegate, accused the United Nations of deliberately trying to delay the convening of the political conference in order to 'retain forcibly' North Korean and Chinese prisoners who refused to go home. Mr Dean, the U.N. delegate, countered with the charge that the Communists were stalling so as to prevent the release of prisoners.

7 Dec.—Mr Dean saw President Rhee and his Foreign Minister. It was their second conference in three days.

8 Dec.—Political Conference: U.N. Proposals. Mr Dean submitted a final plan which proposed: that the conference should meet at Geneva (or some other suitable place) twenty-eight to forty-two days after the end of the current Panmunjom talks; that it should be between the two belligerent sides who should have plenary authority over its proceedings; that voting powers should be limited to U.N. countries which had troops in Korea and the Republic of Korea, and to China, North Korea, and Russia; that all decisions should be binding on the signatory Governments; that in addition to belligerents 'some or all' of the countries with 'current experience' in Korea should be asked to attend and that they should be allowed to speak on items of the agenda but would have no voting rights and no power to introduce motions or proposals. The first business of the conference would be to frame an agenda on which unanimous agreement would be necessary.

Mr Ki Sok-Bok denounced the proposals as 'ridiculous' and as showing that the United Nations was still trying to delay the conference. He said the plan imposed unreasonable restrictions on neutrals, among whom he included Russia.

The South Korean delegate boycotted the meeting, and the Foreign Minister later described the plan as 'unfortunate'. South Korean objections were reported to be centred on the proposed inclusion of countries with 'current experience' of Korea.

9 Dec.—The Communists rejected Mr Dean's proposals and again insisted that Russia should attend the conference as a neutral.

10 Dec.—Mr Dean announced that he had received fresh instruc-

tions from Mr Dulles, U.S. Secretary of State, urging him to do everything conceivable to secure acceptance of a political conference on the basis of the allied proposals.

11 Dec.—Mr Dean suggested at the preliminary peace talks that the Chinese and North Korean delegates had a secret agreement with Russia to disrupt the conference.

Prisoners. Twenty-five of thirty pro-Communist South Korean prisoners who were interviewed adopted delaying tactics with the obvious intention of holding up proceedings.

12 Dec.—Rupture of Talks. Mr Dean broke off the preliminary talks after the Chinese spokesman had accused the U.S. Government of 'perfidy' in having allegedly conspired with the South Korean Government to release the 27,000 anti-Communist prisoners in June. Mr Dean told the press that he would not return unless the Communists retracted their accusation.

13 Dec.—Prisoners. Twenty-two pro-Communist American and one British prisoner refused to appear for explanations by compatriots unless their South Korean colleagues also consented to come out for explanations. The latter were still refusing to appear unless they were allowed to make 'counter-explanations'.

The Indian Command segregated eight anti-Communist North Korean prisoners and charged them with killing four fellow prisoners. The bodies had been thrown over the compound fence.

14 Dec.—South Korea. An American-South Korean economic agreement was signed providing for the allocation of about £180 m. or South Korean rehabilitation from foreign aid and Korea's own resources for the twelve months ending 30 June 1954.

15 Dec.—Mr Dean left for Washington to consult with the State Department and officials of the other fifteen U.N. member countries whom he had represented at the talks. His deputy, Mr Young (United States), remained with authority to continue negotiations if within a week the Communists withdrew their charges of U.S. perfidy or made a positive contribution.

South Korea. Mr Pyun, South Korean Foreign Minister, said that his Government was determined to take 'effective action' by the end of January if no definite decision had been reached by then on Korean unification.

16 Dec.—South Korea. President Rhee of South Korea said that he would give a Korean peace conference ninety days to unify the country regardless of when the conference began.

Prisoners. Gen. Thimayya, chairman of the neutral repatriation commission, said that the Indian custodian force would release all prisoners on 22 January in accordance with the armistice agreement unless the United Nations and the Communists were agreed that the Indians should retain custody. If they agreed the Indians would be prepared to retain custody for a further period. (This was later stated in Delhi to be the General's personal view and not necessarily that of the Indian Government.)

China. The Chinese Government sent a Note to the Governments

Korea (*continued*)

of the five neutral nations of the Repatriation Commission asking that the Commission should use compulsion to clear out 'special agents in control of the prisoner of war camp' and thus ensure that every prisoner might freely exercise his right to be repatriated.

MALAYA. 3 Dec.—A conference of senior British diplomats and military officers in the Far East began discussions in Singapore on British policy.

6 Dec—Emergency Figures. The official figures for November showed that during the month seventy-one terrorists were killed, thirty-seven surrendered, and six were captured. Four civilians and thirteen members of the security forces were killed.

MALTA. 3 Dec.—Speaking at a Nationalist Party conference, Dr Borg Olivier, Prime Minister, said his party was not considering the British Government's offer of transfer from Colonial Office to Home Office control (*see p. 764*) as the last and definite answer to Malta's claim for a better constitutional status.

MOROCCO. 9 Dec.—Terrorism. It was reported that within the past four days two well-known citizens of Fez and two of Rabat, all associated with the Nationalist Istiqlal party, had disappeared. Other reports stated that within the past three months as many as forty murders of Moroccans by Moroccans on grounds of national betrayal or friendship with France had taken place.

NEPAL. 11 Dec.—The first motor road to be constructed between Delhi and Katmandu was opened.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION. 11 Dec.—Military Committee. Following a meeting of the Military Committee, Admiral Qvistgaard (Denmark), the chairman, told the press that the committee was satisfied with the military progress made during 1953 but it agreed with the Supreme Commander's view that air power was insufficient.

13 Dec.—Lord Ismay, Secretary-General, told the press that very substantial progress had been made by N.A.T.O. countries, and that the military forces available were certainly sufficient to discourage aggression. Both their quality and cohesion had improved beyond recognition, but, above all, the unity of N.A.T.O. had persisted and become stronger, and this, he felt, was the greatest deterrent of all to aggression. The progress of the 'infrastructure' programme was reflected in the fact that of 160 N.A.T.O. airfields authorized and under construction (including thirty-four in Germany), 100 would have major operating facilities by the end of 1953 and an additional twenty would have usable runways. In addition the civilian airfields constructed or improved by national authorities would nearly double the figure of 'infrastructure' airfields. A \$2,000 m. correlated production programme, ranging from

fighter aircraft to ammunition and minesweepers had been put into operation with the aim of 'increasing the quantity and effectiveness of N.A.T.O. production'.

14 Dec.—North Atlantic Council. The twelfth session of the Council opened in Paris with M. Bidault, French Foreign Minister, in the chair.

In his opening speech, M. Bidault urged a more dynamic enforcement of N.A.T.O. principles, and he underlined the necessity of finding a balance between the E.D.C. and N.A.T.O. He said the European continent needed 'a counter-weight and guarantors' at least until Franco-German reconciliation was firmly established, and that while it lay with 'certain of our Atlantic allies' to provide the counter-weight and the guarantees, it also lay with the Council to formulate ideas on the matter. Modern conditions demanded broader groupings and extended solidarities, and, if this resulted in substituting European for national isolation, the risks would tempt many to seek shelter in 'the framework of the past'.

Mr Dulles, U.S. Secretary of State, told the Council, and afterwards the press, that if ratification of the E.D.C. treaty were not forthcoming 'soon', then the United States would be compelled to make 'an agonizing reappraisal' of its own basic policies. Amplifying this to the press, he said that the United States would not renounce its N.A.T.O. obligations but the 'reappraisal' would force it to reconsider the ways of implementing the treaty, such as the redistribution of American forces in Europe.

Signor Pella, Italian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, informed the Council that though his Government supported the E.D.C. treaty it would be difficult for the Italian Parliament to ratify it 'while certain frontier questions remain unsettled'.

Standard Cartridge. The Council announced that the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States, Belgium, and France had adopted a standard .30 in. (7.62 mm.) calibre cartridge. Other members had been invited to adopt it as well.

U.S. Policy. Mr Wilson, U.S. Secretary of Defence, announced to the Council that, subject to Congressional approval, the United States would continue, for the foreseeable future, to support its N.A.T.O. allies in contributing towards training and assistance in new weapons (by which he implied atomic weapons), and he indicated that N.A.T.O. forces in Europe would be equipped with the latest arms. He also said that the U.S. Administration would seek the necessary legislative enactments to allow the sharing of pertinent information on nuclear and other new weapons with N.A.T.O. allies.

16 Dec.—A communiqué issued at the end of the Council meeting said that the Council had discussed the international situation and had concluded that there had been no evidence of any change in ultimate Soviet objectives and that the disintegration of the Atlantic alliance remained a principal Soviet aim. The Council had welcomed the steps taken by the British, French, and U.S. Governments to secure a four-Power meeting of Foreign Ministers in Berlin, and it also welcomed

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (*continued*)

President Eisenhower's atomic energy proposals which he had placed before the United Nations. The Council reaffirmed that peace and security must be N.A.T.O.'s paramount aim. It recognized that its increasing strength and unity had proved a decisive factor in maintaining peace and that it must be ready to face a continued threat of aggression over a long period and therefore must keep in being forces and weapons which members could afford while maintaining and strengthening their economic and social systems. Improvements should be continually sought to ensure that N.A.T.O. equipment would be up to date in the event of attack. A German contribution remained an essential objective.

The report on the annual review for 1953 had recorded notable progress in developing the effectiveness of N.A.T.O. forces. Large quantities of new equipment had been provided, enabling many new support units to be built up. The goals for the current year had been completely met for the land forces and substantially for the naval and air forces. The Council had adopted firm force goals for 1954, provisional goals for 1955, and planning goals for 1956. The force goal for 1954 envisaged some increase in the numerical strength of existing forces and a very substantial improvement in their quality and effectiveness. It had been agreed that special attention should be given to the provision of modern weapons of the latest types, and it had noted with satisfaction the intention of the U.S. President to ask Congress for authority to provide information on nuclear weapons to N.A.T.O. commanders. The Council had asked the Military Committee to continue its re-assessment of the most effective pattern of military forces, both active and reserve, for a long-term defence system, taking into consideration the effect of new weapons. The Council would also keep under review the very considerable financial effort still required to continue the build-up, maintain an adequate level of readiness, and to replace obsolescent weapons.

Emphasis had been laid by the Council on the importance of the work being done to co-ordinate national planning in such matters as civil defence, war-time control and distribution of commodities, and of shipping and other means of transport. It had agreed with the views expressed in the Secretary-General's report that preparations in these fields should parallel progress achieved in the military field. It noted that manpower problems had been kept under review and that several recommendations to Governments had been approved. Progress achieved in preparing correlated production programmes for many years ahead had been welcomed, and satisfaction expressed with the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of common infrastructure programmes. In addition to many other projects under construction, 120 airfields and a large network of signals communications facilities were in use by N.A.T.O. forces.

Ministers had taken the opportunity of meeting in restricted sessions for informal discussions and they intended to continue the practice in future.

ORGANIZATION FOR EUROPEAN ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION. 14 Dec.—The O.E.E.C. published reports on the economies of the Benelux countries, France, and the United States. The findings in the reports had been accepted by all members including the countries concerned.

PAKISTAN. 6 Dec.—**United States.** Mr Nixon, Vice-President of the United States, arrived in Karachi for talks with Pakistan leaders.

11 Dec.—Mr Nehru on Pakistan army (*see India*).

China. It was learned that a Note, similar in substance to the Soviet Note (*see p. 770*), had been received from the Chinese Government on the subject of U.S. negotiations for bases in Pakistan.

PERSIA. 3 Dec.—Mullah Kashani and Mr Hussein Makki, the National Front leader, (the latter in a letter to the Prime Minister) both expressed strong opposition to a resumption of diplomatic relations with Britain.

5 Dec.—**Great Britain. Resumption of Relations.** It was announced in Tehran and London that the Persian and British Governments had decided to resume diplomatic relations at once and that they would thereafter proceed to negotiate a settlement of the oil problem.

Mullah Kashani called for 'a day of mourning' in protest against the decision. He asked that the bazaar should remain closed and that people should wear black armbands.

Gen. Zahedi, Prime Minister, said in a broadcast that Persia had resumed relations with Britain because the breach had failed to solve the oil dispute and had created 'other difficulties'. The decision was in the interests of international peace and co-operation. Persia desired friendship with all nations except when there was proof of aggression against Persia's interests and prestige.

6 Dec.—The day passed calmly though some anti-British demonstrators in the bazaar area wearing black armbands were dispersed by troops.

7 Dec.—**Disorders.** Three students were killed when troops opened fire on anti-British demonstrators at Tehran University. Thirty arrests were made.

Appointment of British Chargé d'Affaires (*see Great Britain*).

9 Dec.—**U.S.A.** Mr Nixon, Vice-President of the United States, arrived in Tehran in the course of his tour of Far and Middle Eastern countries. In a written statement he paid a glowing tribute to Gen. Zahedi, the Prime Minister, and expressed a hope for closer U.S.-Persian co-operation.

POLAND. 7 Dec.—Warsaw Radio reported that a Polish military court at Stettin had sentenced two western agents to death and a third to life imprisonment. They were accused of having been sent to Poland 'to prepare the way for parachutists'.

RHODESIA AND NYASALAND. 8 Dec.—Mr Lyttelton's statement

Rhodesia and Nyasaland (*continued*)

announcing end of Northern Rhodesian crisis (*see Great Britain*).

11 Dec.—In an election speech in Salisbury, Sir Godfrey Huggins, leader of the Federal Party, declared that the Confederates were fighting the federal election on the straight issue of segregation although they must realize that a policy of *apartheid* was impossible under the federal constitution. He said that industrial segregation would wreck the economy of the federation and pointed out that the industrial conciliation Act in Southern Rhodesia protected the white man's standard of living, while the development of secondary industry had been made possible largely by African labour, some of it well paid. He was convinced that a substantial degree of segregation was quite impracticable: it would put the clock back and produce internal racial disharmony where racial relations had been the best in Africa. On the political side, unless Africans shared in the system of Government there would be divided loyalty. Sir Godfrey preferred a common electoral roll to the Colonial Office system of nomination. He said the latter method created a colour system whereas a common roll, though it entailed a slow political advance for the African, would mean that the advance was on the right lines and would encourage loyalty to the State. He disliked racial representation in the federal constitution and said the development of a black and white front must be prevented. Sir Godfrey emphasized the necessity for a stable Government in order to inspire confidence both at home and in the oversea investor. The federal Government, he said, must assist the mission of the Europeans as a civilizing influence. The only way to civilize the African was to let him learn, by contact with him, how European institutions worked.

14 Dec.—A pan-African congress convened by the Northern Rhodesia African Congress at Lusaka was postponed owing to the non-arrival of delegates from other African territories. Mr Nkumbula, congress president, accused the Northern Rhodesian Government of undermining the congress by deliberately keeping out of the territory nine delegates who had accepted invitations.

15 Dec.—**Federal Elections.** Polling for the federal elections took place and resulted in the Federal Party winning twenty-four of the twenty-six seats for elected members. The Confederate Party won one seat and an Independent candidate one. (The Federal Parliament would also include three members representing African interests—one specially elected in Southern Rhodesia and two nominated by the Governors of Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland—and six Africans, two of whom were elected on a common roll in Southern Rhodesia and four elected by the African councils.)

SOUTH AFRICA. 5 Dec.—**U.N. Vote on Apartheid Policy** (*see United Nations, General Assembly—Special (ad hoc) Political Committee*).

7 Dec.—**Suppression of Communism.** Five non-Europeans, including Dr Dadoo, former president of the South African Indian Congress, succeeded in appeals against restrictions on their activities which had been imposed by the Ministry of Justice under the Suppres-

sion of Communism Act. The judge allowed the appeals and set aside the convictions.

11 Dec.—Apartheid. Dr Malan, Prime Minister, announced in a speech at Stellenbosch University that the Government had decided to stop the mingling of European and non-European students at the Cape Town and Witwatersrand Universities. A commission had been appointed to investigate the matter and consult on what steps should be taken to provide appropriately and fairly for the separation of whites and non-whites in higher education.

SUDAN. 11 Dec.—Elections. The final results for the House of Representatives were announced as follows: National Unionists 50 seats, Umma 23, Socialist Republicans 3, Southern Party 9, Independents 11, Anti Imperialism Front 1.

15 Dec.—Elections. The results of the elections to the Senate were announced as follows: National Unionists 21 seats, Umma Party 4, Southern Party 3, Independents 2, Socialist Republicans nil.

SYRIA. 3 Dec. et seq. U.N. debate on Jordan waters dispute (*see United Nations, Security Council*).

13 Dec.—Jordan. Following a talk between Brigadier Shishaekly, the President, and Fawzi el Mulki, the Jordan Prime Minister, the latter said that they had discussed the external pressure being exerted on Jordan to make peace with Israel and had agreed to call an urgent meeting of the Arab League political committee to review the question. (The Levant press had freely reported that since the U.N. call for Jordan-Israeli talks on frontier tension pressure was being exerted by the United States.)

TRIESTE FREE TERRITORY. 7 Dec.—Both Italian and Yugoslav troops began to withdraw from the frontier in accordance with the agreement reached in Rome (*see Italy*).

TURKEY. 14 Dec.—The Grand National Assembly passed by 341 votes to 5 a Bill sponsored by the Democrat Party to confiscate all the property of the Republican Party on the ground that it had acquired it unethically during its twenty-five years of single party rule. The fifty-two Republican deputies boycotted the debate.

UGANDA. 3 Dec.—Buganda. The three Ministers of Buganda said they were prepared to accept a regency to govern Buganda in place of the deposed Kabaka, but they emphasized that they still regarded Mutesa II as Kabaka and were sending a message to the British Government requesting his return.

5 Dec.—Relaxation of security precautions in Buganda and message from the ex-Kabaka (*see Great Britain*).

7 Dec.—Buganda. An unofficial meeting of the Lukiko, after being addressed by the British Resident, expressed opposition to the proposal to appoint three Regents and especially to the proposal to appoint the three Ministers as Regents.

Uganda (*continued*)

8 Dec.—Members of the Lukiko of Buganda sent a petition to the Governor requesting him to prolong the Ministers' term of office and not to appoint Regents.

Appointment of Regents. The Chief Minister, Paulo Kavuma Obe, and the Treasurer, Latimer Mpagi, were sworn in as Regents of Buganda.

10 Dec.—Government officials confirmed that the Nagabareka, the wife of the Kabaka of Buganda, had sent a telegram to the Queen pleading for Her Majesty's intervention in regard to the Kabaka's banishment. She had also sent similar telegrams to Mr Nehru, Prime Minister of India, to Mrs Pandit, President of the U.N. Assembly, and to Dr Nkrumah, Prime Minister of the Gold Coast.

The Government announced a further relaxation of emergency measures.

15 Dec.—Statement by Lukiko delegation (*see Great Britain*).

UNITED NATIONS**Food and Agriculture Organization**

9 Dec.—**Director-General.** Dr Philip Cardon (United States) was unanimously elected Director-General in succession to Mr Dodd.

General Assembly

3 Dec.—**Atrocities in Korea.** The Assembly adopted by 42 votes to 5 (Soviet States) the resolution tabled on 30 November expressing grave concern at reports of Chinese and North Korean atrocities in Korea (*see p. 775*). Afghanistan, Burma, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Yemen, and Yugoslavia abstained. India and the Lebanon did not take part in the voting. No move was made to amend the resolution to include provision for an impartial investigation, as Mr Vyshinsky in dismissing the American proposal as a 'demagogic eleventh-hour proposal' had shown that he would not agree to an investigating commission being granted free access in North Korea and China.

7 Dec.—**Prisoners of War.** With only the Soviet *bloc* opposing, the Assembly approved a resolution expressing grave concern at the evidence that many prisoners from the Second World War were still not repatriated or accounted for, and appealing to all Governments to co-operate with, and give information to, the *ad hoc* commission on prisoners of war.

Forced Labour. By affirmative votes with twelve abstentions—the Soviet *bloc* again being alone in opposition—the Assembly urged that the Economic and Social Council and the International Labour Organization should give early consideration to the report on forced labour presented by a committee under Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, of India.

8 Dec.—**President Eisenhower's Atomic Proposals.** In an address to the General Assembly, President Eisenhower said he felt impelled to speak in a new language—the language of atomic warfare—and he went on to show the enormous strides in development achieved

since the first atomic explosion on 16 July 1945. He said atomic bombs had become twenty-five times more powerful since then, while hydrogen weapons were equivalent to millions of tons of T.N.T. The U.S. stock-pile of atomic weapons exceeded by many times the explosive equivalent of the total of all bombs and shells exploded in the Second World War, and a single air group could deliver a cargo more powerful in destruction than all the bombs that fell on Britain during that war. All three of the U.S. services were capable of putting atomic weapons to military use. Four countries possessed the secret of atomic power—the United States, Britain, Canada, and the Soviet Union—and the knowledge would soon be shared by others. As for defence against atomic weapons, even a vast superiority in numbers was no preventive, of itself, against a surprise attack, and no defence system could guarantee absolute safety for cities or citizens.

President Eisenhower said the United States refused to accept the 'hopeless finality of a belief that two atomic colossi are doomed malevolently to eye each other indefinitely across a trembling world'. It wanted to be constructive not destructive. It would approach the forthcoming four-Power conference with hopeful sincerity and make every effort to achieve tangible results which would lessen international tension. 'We never have,' he said, 'and never will propose or suggest that the Soviet Union surrender what is rightfully hers'. The United States would never regard the Russian people as an enemy, and it hoped that the conference would initiate a relationship with the Soviet Union which would eventually bring about a free intermingling of the peoples of east and west.

The President then referred to the Assembly's resolution of 18 November which proposed that the Disarmament Commission should consider the establishment of a sub-committee 'of the Powers principally involved' to seek in private an acceptable solution. He said the United States would bring to the talks a new conception. It would propose that the Governments principally involved, to the extent permitted by elementary prudence, would make joint contributions from their stock piles of normal uranium and fissionable materials to an international atomic energy agency set up under the aegis of the United Nations. The ratios of contributions, procedures, and other details would be within the scope of the private talks. The United States would undertake these explorations in good faith and would not be ungenerous. Initial contributions would undoubtedly have to be small, but a merit of the proposal was that it could be undertaken without the suspicions incidental to any attempt to set up an acceptable system of inspection and control. The atomic energy agency could be made responsible for the impounding, storage, and protection of the materials contributed, and, more important, it would also be responsible for devising methods whereby this fissionable material could be allocated for peaceful purposes. Experts would be mobilized to supply atomic energy to the needs of agriculture, medicine, and other peaceful activities. A special purpose would be to provide electrical energy in power-starved areas. The United States would be proud to discuss such plans with others

United Nations (continued)

'principally involved'. The Soviet Union would necessarily have to be one of these Powers.

In conclusion, the President declared his readiness to submit to the U.S. Congress any such plan which would: (1) encourage world-wide investigation into the most effective peace-time uses of fissionable material in the certainty that they had all the materials needed for the conduct of experiments; (2) begin to diminish the potential destructive power of the world's atomic stockpiles; (3) allow all peoples of all nations to see that the great Powers, both of the east and of the west, were interested in human aspirations first and foremost rather than in building up the armaments of war; (4) open up a new channel for peaceful discussion and initiate at least a new approach to international problems.

Togoland. The Assembly deleted from a series of resolutions adopted by the Trusteeship Committee (*see p. 777*) a paragraph declaring that the integration of British Togoland with the Gold Coast before both territories attained self-government or independence would be contrary to the principles of the trusteeship system. It was rejected under the two-thirds majority rule, the vote being 28 votes in favour to 17. Sir Gladwyn Jebb (U.K.) maintained that the paragraph was not in accordance with either the trusteeship agreement or the U.N. Charter. After its elimination all three resolutions on Togoland were adopted by large majorities.

9 Dec.—Secretariat. The Assembly approved by 53 votes to 5 (Soviet *bloc*) proposals of the Secretary-General for changes in the structure of the Secretariat designed to bring it closer to European administrative practice. Mr Hammarskjöld had estimated that the changes would result in a saving of \$1 m. The main change proposed was the elimination of the posts of assistant secretaries-general.

U.S.S.R. In a closing speech before the Assembly recessed, Mr Vyshinsky said that no reduction of stocks of atomic weapons could be thought of without agreement on the Soviet proposals for unconditional prohibition of atomic weapons accompanied by strict international controls to assure the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. He maintained that many of the current Assembly's decisions had weakened the United Nations' authority and cited as examples the refusal to admit Communist China, the rejection of the Soviet disarmament proposals, and the postponement of a debate on Korea.

General Assembly—Budgetary Committee.

7 Dec.—Staff Dismissals. Sir Alec Randall (U.K.) proposed that the Assembly should request from the International Court an advisory opinion as to whether the Assembly could over-rule decisions of its own administrative tribunal on such matters as the payment of compensation to dismissed staff (*see p. 776*).

8 Dec.—The Committee adopted by 35 votes to 7, with 12 abstentions, a resolution sponsored by Britain, Canada, and Colombia which proposed that the International Court should be asked for an advisory

opinion as to whether the Assembly had the right, and if so on what grounds, not to give effect to its tribunal's adjudication of indemnities to dismissed members of staff.

General Assembly—Political Committee

4 Dec.—Chinese Nationalists in Burma. In the resumed debate Sir Gladwyn Jebb (U.K.) said that the carrying out of the evacuation programme had so far not been satisfactory except as a beginning. In particular the number of arms surrendered had been small. More could, and should, be done by the Chinese Nationalist authorities. Mr Carey (U.S.A.) announced that up to 30 November 1,215 troops and 206 dependants had been evacuated. He agreed that the surrender of weapons remained a problem.

5 Dec.—Korea. Mr Menon (India) said that India asked the Assembly to share her responsibility regarding the repatriation of prisoners, at least morally, by allowing her to come to the Assembly for guidance if needed. The Indian task had been far from enviable, and interpretation of the repatriation agreement was by no means automatic.

7 Dec.—Korea. The Committee approved by 55 votes to none, with the Soviet bloc abstaining, a revised proposal submitted jointly by India and Brazil, according to which the Assembly should be recessed without any date being set for reconvening. It was left to the President, Mrs Pandit, 'with the concurrence of the majority of member States', to recall it if she herself thought that developments in Korea warranted it, or if one or more members so requested.

Mr Lodge (U.S.A.), reporting on the Panmunjom negotiations, said there were signs of a narrowing of differences. The United States, representing the United Nations, was 'straining every nerve' to overcome all differences. He paid high praise to the Indian custodian force under Gen. Thimayya for the way in which it had carried out its task.

Mr Menon (India) said the situation in Korea was very grave, and he called attention to the difficulties which would face the custodian force if the political conference did not meet by 22 January, i.e. within thirty days of the expiry of the 'explanation' period. After 22 January the question whether the presence of Indian troops on neutral Korean soil was legal or illegal would become a matter of interpretation, and he wished to register India's concern at the statements made by the South Korean President, amounting even to a threat of war against the Indian troops.

Mr Vyshinsky (U.S.S.R.) blamed the 'dilatatory methods' of the U.N. Command for the 'distorted' course of the Panmunjom talks, and he declared that unless there was a political conference the release of unrepatriated prisoners would be unlawful. He rejected the view that the ninety days stipulated for explanations automatically elapsed on 22 December since for a considerable period no explanations had taken place.

Chinese message to Assembly *re* Korea (see *China*).

General Assembly—Special (*ad hoc*) Political Committee

5 Dec.—South African Racial Policy. The Committee rejected by 42 votes a South African motion declaring the Assembly to be incompetent to deal with the Union's racial policies. It adopted by 37 votes to 10 a resolution submitted by India and sixteen other nations which requested the U.N. commission (headed by Senor Santa Cruz of Chile) to continue its study of the subject, to suggest measures to alleviate the situation and promote a peaceful settlement, and to invite the co-operation of the South African Government. The resolution also took note of the conclusion of the commission that it was highly unlikely 'that the policy of *apartheid* will ever be willingly accepted by masses subjected to discrimination'. Britain, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Belgium, France, Greece, the Netherlands, and Colombia joined with South Africa in opposing the motion. With the exception of Canada, New Zealand, and the Netherlands, who abstained, the same countries also supported the South African motion.

General Assembly—Trusteeship Committee.

7 Dec.—Central African Federation. Ignoring an appeal from the chairman, Mrs Menon (India) brought up the question of central African federation, declaring that Africans' fears of federation were widespread. She also spoke of the 'blind violence' and the arrest of social development in Kenya, and she described the deposition of the Kabaka of Buganda as typical of the general trends of development in certain areas of Africa. The U.K. delegate reiterated that such matters were outside the committee's scope, and no debate followed.

Security Council

3 Dec.—Israeli-Syrian Dispute *re* Jordan Waters. Sir Zafrullah Khan (Pakistan) said that if Israel carried out her scheme to divert the Jordan waters it would not only give her greater security but, if bent on aggression, would enable her to make the Jordan fordable by her troops. Israel would thus have a military advantage in the area and the value of the river to Syria would be destroyed. He considered that Gen. Bennike had been fully justified in stopping the work until both parties reached an agreement about it.

14 Dec.—Trieste. The Council again decided by 8 votes to 1 (Russia) to postpone consideration of the Trieste question pending the outcome of current efforts to find a solution by negotiation. The Lebanon abstained.

16 Dec.—Jordan Waters Dispute. Britain, the United States, and France submitted a joint resolution proposing that the Syrian-Israeli dispute be referred back to Gen. Bennike, chief of the truce supervision organization, who should be asked to report within ninety days on the possibilities of a solution, and who should have experts placed at his disposal to help him obtain the necessary technical data.

UNITED NATIONS TIN CONFERENCE. 9 Dec.—The conference, meeting in Geneva, issued the text of a draft agreement providing for

the establishment of an international tin council on which all signatories would be represented. The council would follow the tin market and, in addition, supervise the activities of the manager of the buffer stock; it would also agree upon export controls and quotas for producing countries when there was a surplus of tin and upon import controls and quotas for consuming countries when there was a shortage. The buffer stock would be built up to 25,000 tons at the expense of producing countries, and the manager would purchase tin when its price on the London Metal Exchange dropped below £640 a ton or make available quantities from the stock when the price rose above £880. To prevent steep falls or rises he could also purchase if the price fluctuated between £640 and £720 in the first case, or between £800 and £880 in the latter.

The agreement would be open for signature between 1 March and 30 June 1954 and would enter into force after ratification by at least nine (of eighteen) consuming countries together holding at least 333 votes (out of a total of 1,000) as well as by producing countries together holding at least 900 (out of 1,000) votes. The American delegation, representing a consumer of more than half of the world's tin production, reserved the right not to be bound by any majority decision. It was stated that there was no likelihood that a two-thirds majority could be found in Congress for ratification, seeing that the minimum price quoted was about 15 per cent above current average market price.

UNITED STATES. 3 Dec.—Great Britain. Surplus Farm Products.

The Foreign Operations Administration announced that \$55 m. had been allotted to Great Britain for the purchase of surplus American farm products. Of the amount, \$35 m. was to be allotted under the defence support programme and \$20 m. under the 1953 Mutual Security Act.

Trade with China. Senator McCarthy. In a reply before television to President Eisenhower's statement of 2 December and Mr Dulles's of 1 December, Senator McCarthy said he had recommended that the United States should refuse to give American dollars to any nation shipping goods to Communist China so long as a single American prisoner remained in Chinese hands. He also urged every American who felt as he did about this 'blood trade' to write or wire the President.

Mr Gouzenko. Senator Jenner informed the Secretary of State that his sub-committee had decided to agree to the Canadian Government's terms on the questioning of Mr Gouzenko (*see 25 November, p. 780*), and a Note to that effect was accordingly sent to the Canadian Government.

4 Dec.—Defence. A Pentagon committee of senior officers in the three services submitted a report to the Secretary of Defence which expressed serious concern over the steady deterioration of morale in the armed forces since 1945 through lack of effective discipline.

Cuba. Dr Carlos Prío Socarras, who was President of Cuba until his overthrow in 1952, and Senor Segundo Curti, formerly his Minister of the Interior, were arrested at Miami, Florida, after a grand jury had returned an indictment against them and nine others in which they

United States (continued)

were charged with conspiring to ship arms and ammunition out of the country in violation of the Export Control Act. They were released on bail. The Federal District Attorney said that the shipments were considerable and that there was a clear implication that the munitions were to be used for revolution in Cuba.

Bermuda Three-Power Conference *q.v.*

6 Dec.—Gift of wheat to Jordan (*see Jordan*).

7 Dec.—**Defence.** Speaking at Indianapolis, Mr Wilson, Secretary of Defence, said the United States had a defence organization 'geared to take off' at a moment's notice, with N.A.T.O. as the main link in the programme. The Government's policy was to negotiate from strength, and he thought it was possible to maintain this strength and at the same time reduce expenditure and the size of the armed forces by 10 per cent. The Air Force would have 115 'good wings' compared with 106 in June.

Japanese Air Force. Mr Talbot, Secretary of the Air Force, announced that the United States would eventually help to rebuild the Japanese Air Force, to enable her to provide a measure of her own security. The United States would also assist the Chinese Nationalists in defending Formosa.

8 Dec.—**Cotton Crop.** The United States' cotton crop was officially estimated at 16,437,000 bales, the largest crop since the record of 1937.

President Eisenhower's Atomic Proposals to U.N. Assembly (*see United Nations, General Assembly*).

9 Dec.—**Communism.** The General Electric Company (responsible for much of the Government's defence work) announced that it would immediately dismiss all admitted Communists, spies, and saboteurs found among its employees, and would suspend any others who might refuse to testify about such matters or who, by invoking the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution, refused to answer questions on the ground that they might incriminate themselves.

Rubber. The United States decided to halve immediately the amount of natural rubber sold to American manufacturers through its 'stock-pile rotation', in order to help south-east Asian producers of natural rubber.

11 Dec.—**Trade with Communist China.** The Commerce Department estimated that the United States would have bought \$9 m. worth of goods from Communist China and Mongolia by the end of 1953 as against \$28 m. in 1952.

Russia. The State Department announced that it had received a message from Mr Bohlen, U.S. Ambassador in Moscow, saying that he had called on Mr Molotov according to instructions and had 'impressed on him the importance and seriousness of the President's proposal for the peaceful uses and development of atomic energy'.

14 Dec.—**Vice-President's Tour.** Vice-President Nixon returned from his tour of nineteen Far and Middle Eastern countries and reported to the President.

U.S.S.R. 3 Dec.—Israel. A Soviet-Israeli trade agreement was signed in Moscow under which Russia agreed to buy \$2.7 m. worth of citrus fruit and \$200,000 worth of bananas, and Israel agreed to buy 100,000 tons of crude oil.

7 Dec.—Western Note. Identical replies to the Soviet Note of 26 November were received from the Governments of Great Britain, France, and the United States. They expressed pleasure that the Soviet Government had decided to take part in a meeting of Foreign Ministers and expressed the hope that the meeting would lead towards the reunification of Germany in freedom and to the conclusion of an Austrian state treaty, and that the settlement of these two questions would contribute to the solution of other major international problems, including that of European security. The Notes emphasized that the Atlantic alliance and the actions of certain European States for developing their prosperity and joint security were exclusively defensive and a collective contribution to peace. They also stated that the Soviet proposal for a five-Power conference could be discussed at the Foreign Ministers' meeting. Having consulted with the German Federal Government and the German authorities in Berlin, the western Powers suggested that the meeting should take place on 4 January 1954 in Berlin in the building which was used by the Allied Control Council.

12 Dec.—President Eisenhower's Speech. Moscow Radio announced that Mr Molotov had promised Mr Bohlen, the American Ambassador, that the Russian Government would give 'serious attention' to President Eisenhower's speech of 8 December to the U.N. Assembly.

15 Dec.—Beria. Moscow Radio announced that the investigations into the case of Mr Beria, former Minister of the Interior, had been completed and he would be tried on charges of high treason and anti-Soviet activities. The following were named as fellow conspirators: V. N. Merkulov, former Minister of State Security and subsequently Minister of State Control; V. G. Dekanozov, recently Minister of Internal Affairs in Georgia; B. Z. Kobulov, formerly deputy Commissar of Internal Affairs of the Georgian Republic, afterwards deputy Soviet Minister of State Security and later deputy Minister of Internal Affairs; S. A. Goglidze, former Commissar of Internal Affairs in Georgia; P. Y. Meshik, former Ukrainian Minister of Internal Affairs; L. E. Vlodzimirsky, ex-head of a special investigation department in the Ministry of the Interior. The radio stated that all the accused had admitted their crimes. It also said that the group had tried to place the Ministry of the Interior above the Communist Party and Government so as to seize power and liquidate the Soviet workers and peasant regime, and restore capitalism.

Moscow Radio later announced that V. G. Zhavoronkov had been appointed as Minister of State Control in place of V. N. Merkulov.

Germany.—Mr Malenkov, Prime Minister, received Mr Grotewohl, the east German Prime Minister.

YUGOSLAVIA. 5 Dec.—Yugoslav-Italian agreement to withdraw troops from frontier (*see Italy*).

Yugoslavia (continued)

6 Dec.—Trieste. Representatives of the three western Powers discussed the western proposals for a conference on Trieste with Mr Popovic, Foreign Minister.

7 Dec.—Trieste. The Foreign Office announced that the withdrawal of troops from the Italian frontier would begin that day and would be completed within fifteen days.

15 Dec.—Danube Commission. Appointment of Yugoslav secretary, etc. (*see Danube Commission*).

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1954

- Jan. 4 (?) Four-Power Conference of Foreign Ministers, Berlin.
 „ 18 Conference on Nigerian Constitution, Lagos.
 „ 4-29 Minorities sub-commission of U.N. Trusteeship Council, New York.
 „ 8-15 Commonwealth Finance Ministers, Sydney.
 „ 27 Southern Rhodesian General Election.
 Mar. 30 U.N. Economic and Social Council, 17th session, New York.

CHRONOLOGY, Volume 9 (1953)

Index and Binding Case

A detailed Index, with title-page, is being prepared and will in due course be sent without extra charge to all postal subscribers. If bought separately, the cost will be 2s. 6d. (£0.50).

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